

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 02850 030145Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 SSO-00 /013 W

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O R 022345Z APR 75 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7007

INFO DEA HQS WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 2850

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: HERBICIDES FOR POPPY ERADICATION

DEA MEXICO 188

REF: STATE 71074; MEXICO 2725

DEA HQS EOI - MR. CUSACK

1. GOM DEPT OF AGRICULTURE BEGAN TESTING PROCESS 4/1/75.
2. ON 3/4/75, WHEN ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE WAS PROVIDED WITH CERTAIN TECHNICAL INFORMATION RE PARAQUOT AND GLYPHOSATE WHICH ORIGINATED FROM DR. GENTNER, ATTORNEY GENERAL REQUESTED U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING SAMPLES ASAP, WHICH HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. AT SAME TIME, ATTORNEY GENERAL WAS ADVISED OF DR. GENTNER'S EXPERTISE AND FACT THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT WILLING TO SEND HIM TO MEXICO TO ASSIST GOM WITH TESTS, ETC. ATTORNEY GENEAL REPLIED THAT HE ONLY WISHED SAMPLES AT THIS TIME; THAT BECAUSE OF OBVIOUS POSSIBLE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS WITHIN MEXICO, HE WANTED TO MINIMIZE USG INVOLVEMENT TO THE ESSENTIAL; AND THAT HE APPRECIATED OFFER BUT INITIALLY FELT GOM AGRICULTURE DEPT CAPABLE OF CARRYING OUT TESTING; IF NECESSARY IN GOM OPINION, THEY WOULD REQUEST DR. GENTNER'S ASSISTANCE.

3. GOM ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE VERY INTERESTED IN
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POSSIBLE USE OF HERBICIDES FOR POPPY ERADICATION AND WELL

AWARE THAT TRADITIONAL ERADICATION METHODS WILL SIMPLY NOT GET THE JOB DONE THIS YEAR. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE IS ALSO ACUTELY AWARE OF POTENTIAL POLITICAL AND SOCIAL RAMIFICATIONS WITHIN COUNTRY IF HERBICIDES ARE USED. THEREFORE, IF GOM MAKES DECISION TO USE HERBICIDES, ATTORNEY GENERAL INTENDS TO EMBARK ON INTENSE PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN, RADIO, TV, ETC., BY GOM PRIOR TO USE, EXPLAINING EXACTLY WHAT IS BEING USED, WHY AND WHAT IT DOES AND DOES NOT EFFECT. ATTORNEY GENERAL INSISTS, HOWEVER, AND EMBASSY AGREES THAT MATTER MUST BE LEFT SOLELY IN GOM HANDS AT THIS TIME.

4. IN VIEW FOREGOING, RECOMMEND WE POSTPONE CONSIDERATION OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT UNTIL GOM MAKES DECISION AND/OR REQUESTS ASSISTANCE AT WHICH TIME EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE OPPORUNITY SUBMIT VIEWS. JOVA

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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